# CLAIMS

1.    A method for automated acquisition of assertions in a specification of a computer program, comprising the operations of:

receiving an input specification, wherein the input specification comprises a
5    plurality of sentences;

obtaining a sentence from the plurality of sentences;

determining whether the obtained sentence is a testable assertion; and

marking the obtained sentence as testable when the obtained sentence is a testable assertion.

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2.    A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the operation of identifying a context within the specification.

3.    A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the operation of obtaining the
15    sentence from the plurality of sentences includes parsing the context to obtain the sentence.

4.    A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the operation of adding the marked obtained sentence to an assertion result set.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained sentence.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein each assertion comprises at least one sentence of the specification.

7. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein each assertion can comprises at least two sentences of the specification.

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8. A computer program for automatically obtaining assertions from a specification for a computer program, comprising:

a code segment that receives an input specification for a computer program;

a code segment that identifies a context within the input specification;

15     a code segment that parses the identified context to obtain assertions;

a code segment that determines whether the obtained assertions are testable statements; and

a code segment that adds the obtained assertions to an assertion result set, wherein the assertion result set can be used to facilitate testing of the specification.

9.      A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment that filters the identified context prior to parsing the context.

5       10.     A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein an assertion is an implied statement that can be tested.

11.     A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained assertions.

10      12.     A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein each assertion comprises at least one sentence of the specification.

13.     A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein each assertion can comprises at least two sentences of the specification.

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14.     A computer program for automated acquisition of assertions in a specification of a computer program, comprising:

a code segment that receives an input specification, wherein the input specification comprises a plurality of sentences;

a code segment that obtains a sentence from the plurality of sentences;

a code segment that determines whether the obtained sentence is a testable

5    assertion; and

a code segment that marks the obtained sentence as testable when the obtained sentence is a testable assertion.


15.    A computer program as recited in claim 14, further comprising a code

10   segment that identifies a context within the specification.


16.    A computer program as recited in claim 15, wherein the code segment that obtains the sentence from the plurality of sentences includes a code segment that parses the context to obtain the sentence.

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17.    A computer program as recited in claim 16, further comprising a code segment that adds the marked obtained sentence to an assertion result set.


18.    A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the context is a set of

20   circumstances related to the obtained sentence.

19.    A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein each assertion comprises at least one sentence of the specification.

5    20.    A computer program as recited in claim 19, wherein each assertion can comprises at least two sentences of the specification.